

**REMARKS**

In the Office Action mailed on March 7, 2006, the Examiner rejected claims 1-13 and 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,385,970 to Kuras et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,468,126 to Lukich et al.; and indicated that claims 14 and 15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By this amendment, Applicants propose amending independent claims 1, 10, and 16 to include the allowable subject matter of claim 14. Applicants also propose canceling claim 14 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof. In view of this proposed amendment, the Section 103(a) rejection of independent claims 1, 10, and 16, and claims 2-9, 11-13, and 16-18 that depend therefrom, would be moot and should be withdrawn.

Applicants respectfully request that this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 be entered by the Examiner. Because the proposed Amendment incorporates allowable subject matter into each of the independent claims, this Amendment should enable immediate action by the Examiner.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants request entry of this Amendment, reconsideration and reexamination of the application, and timely allowance of the pending claims.

PATENT  
Attorney Docket No. 08350.2689

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge  
any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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